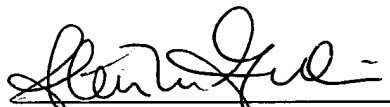


REMARKS

The foregoing amendments eliminate the multiple dependent claim format so as to avoid the concomitant surcharge therefor. Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and an examination in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees due to our deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 14, 2004